

Appl. No. 09/871,672

Reply to Office Action of: March 8, 2006

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges the allowability of claims 7-26 and 48.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for reviewing the present application and for taking the time to discuss the present application with John R.S. Orange (29,725) in the telephone interview conducted on June 1, 2006. Applicant also wishes to thank the Examiner for her consideration of the proposed claim amendments discussed in the above interview and for following up with her comments on same in a telephone call on June 2, 2006. Applicant believes that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Amendments

As suggested by the Examiner in the telephone call of June 2, 2006, claim 7 is amended swapping the order of steps g) and h) such that the second MAC is generated prior to verification of the first MAC. As also suggested by the Examiner, "second" is inserted prior to "MAC" in step i).

Further to the telephone discussion of June 2, 2006, claims 27 and 38 have been amended to reflect the limitations of allowable claim 7 taking into consideration the above amendments thereto.

Claim Rejections

Claims 27 and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Blake-Wilson et al. (6,336,188) with Diffie-Hellman incorporated by reference. Claims 28-29 and 39-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blake-Wilson in view of Reeds, III et al. (5,153,919). Claims 32-33 and 43-44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blake-Wilson in view of Reeds, III in further view of Maruyama et al. (5,883,960). Claims 34-35 and 45-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blake-Wilson in view of Reeds, III in further view of Quick Jr. (6,260,147). Finally, claim 37 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blake-Wilson in view of Venkatesan et al. (6,209,093).

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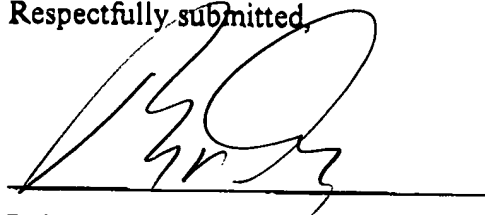
As discussed above, claims 27 and 38 are amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 7. Therefore, for at least the reasons set forth by the Examiner in allowing claim 7, claims 27 and 38 are believed to also distinguish over the references cited by the Examiner and, as such are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 28-35, 37 and 39-46, being ultimately dependent on either claim 27 or 38 are also believed to distinguish over the references cited by the Examiner.

Summary

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims, namely claims 7-48, as amended, clearly and patentably distinguish over the references cited by the Examiner and, as such are in condition for allowance.

Applicant requests early reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 7, 2006

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